

Statement by Raşit Meredow
the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan
at the Sixth Summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence
Building Measures in Asia (CICA)

13 October 2022 Astana
Republic of Kazakhstan

Your Excellencies, Heads of State,

Members of the delegations,

First of all, let me convey sincere words of greeting and respect from the President of Turkmenistan, His Excellency Mr. Serdar Berdimuhamedov, addressed to the national leaders, delegations and participants of the Summit.

I would especially like to express our gratitude to the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan His Excellency Mr. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev for warm hospitality, and created atmosphere of partnership and constructive dialogue.

Since the previous Summit in Dushanbe, considerable changes have taken place in the world, new, complex trends have emerged, geopolitical and geo-economic realities have appeared. All this requires immediate reflection and the development of appropriate decisions and approaches.

Today, more than ever before, the Asian states need consolidated efforts aimed at achieving the main goal - the preservation and maintenance of global peace, strategic stability and security. This is what should define the positions and actions of our countries, both at global and regional levels.

Turkmenistan is convinced that despite all recent threats and challenges, together we are able to find effective tools to address them.

We assign a special role in this process to our joint activities within the framework of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia.

The principles and ideals laid down in its basis have not become outdated, have not undergone political erosion. Today they are especially in demand, fully correspond to the essential needs of the vast majority of nations. Based on these principles, the CICA participants, together with other members of the international community, should give a new boost to strengthening global security, concentrating our activities in this direction with specific political and legal substance.

The key condition for this, in our opinion, is to restore and establish trust and predictability as the basis for building constructive, stable relations in international affairs, and making balanced decisions.

Realizing its share of responsibility for the state of affairs in the world, promoting the philosophy of trust-based dialogue in international relations, Turkmenistan initiated the draft resolution of the United Nations General Assembly entitled "Dialogue is a guarantee of peace". We believe that

through the adoption of this document, the strong commitment of all United Nations Member States will be confirmed for peaceful, negotiated ways to resolve conflicts, no matter how difficult they seem to be.

In the same context, our country has put forward a proposal to the United Nations to declare 2025 the Year of Peace and Trust. We would appreciate the support of your countries for these initiatives during the current session of the General Assembly.

The most important task in ensuring global security is effectively countering international terrorism and extremism. Supporting the efforts of the world community to undertake effective multilateral measures to combat terrorism, Turkmenistan stands for the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in a comprehensive manner. We believe that these activities should be carried out effectively on every level – globally, regionally, and nationally. We are convinced that for the Asian countries, a number of which directly face terrorism threats, this task is highly essential.

An important segment of our cooperation in the field of international security is our joint efforts on the Afghan track. Some participating States of the Conference are close neighbors of Afghanistan, having historic ties with this country. It is necessary to continue stepping up efforts to stabilize the situation in Afghanistan by creating conditions to reach a national consensus through dialogue, and providing economic and humanitarian assistance to the Afghan people.

Turkmenistan considers irreversible disarmament process to be the key condition for peaceful and stable development in Asia, the establishment of a climate of trust, openness and cooperation on our continent. We presume that unstable model based on the belief in arms build-up as a factor of containment is absolutely not viable and counterproductive today. Moreover, it significantly complicates, and sometimes directly undermines, the efforts of states in the field of political development, successful economic cooperation, and addressing a number of important social challenges.

The most significant focus area for the Conference today is the global economy. We proceed from urgent need to actively defend justice and equality in international economic relations, to oppose discrimination, unjustified, often artificial barriers in world trade, and for the recognition of the real economic sovereignty of countries and peoples. Here, the voice of the CICA Member States, whose power in the world economy is steadily growing, is called upon to sound strong, firm and in solidarity. We must proactively and responsibly promote our own consolidated economic agenda.

In this context, the active participation of states of our format in building global energy security and sustainable transport systems is much more relevant.

It is known, that Turkmenistan is taking practical steps to establish a broad and long-term partnership in these areas, having hosted a number of major international forums.

It should also be noted that in recent years the United Nations General Assembly has adopted the resolutions initiated by Turkmenistan on reliable and stable transit of energy resources and global transport cooperation. We look forward to including these items on the priority agenda of our meetings.

We also underline the importance of coordinated actions in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals, including in such a critical field as food security. There is a need for unity and determination in generating our positions on issues of access to food resources for states and regions, ensuring guarantees of good nutrition as the undeniable right of any person.

The problem of refugees is not becoming less acute, the vast majority of which are in Asian countries. It also requires unity and responsibility, the development of effective solutions to protect people, political and legal guarantees of their social security. Turkmenistan has accumulated wide experience in international cooperation in this area, and we are ready to share it with our partners.

Dear participants,

Today's Meeting is called upon to strengthen relations of friendship and solidarity, to contribute to the preservation of peace, stability and security on the Asian continent, the development of the economy and the social sphere, and the active integration of our countries into the world economy.

I am convinced that the existing potential gives every ground for reaching these strategic goals.

Thank you for your attention.